

WILLIAMSON COUNTY WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2003

NOVEMBER 17, 2003.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1732]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1732) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1732 is to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Texas, with the current population now exceeding 250,000. The Texas Water Development Board has concluded that existing wells are being overdrawn and surface water supplies are not meeting current drinking water demands because of the high growth. Most city parks, schools and golf courses in Williamson County are currently using drinking water for irrigation purposes.

Several of the cities in Williamson County have indicated a desire to construct effluent reuse projects to supplement their water supply. To stretch available potable water resources, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is proposing the development of

a Williamson County Regional Reuse System. The system would include three larger projects and several smaller projects, all designed to recycle and transport effluent to parks, school grounds, and golf courses currently using drinking water for irrigation purposes.

H.R. 1732 would allow the LCRA to participate in the Title XVI program, which is designed to assist communities in water reuse needs and is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation. The estimated total cost of the project is \$29 million, with federal funding comprising \$7.25 million (or a maximum of 25 percent of the total cost of the project). The bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from providing funds for project operation and maintenance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1732 was introduced by Congressman John R. Carter (R-TX). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. On May 22, 2003, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on H.R. 1732. On July 17, 2003, the Subcommittee held a markup on the bill. No amendments were offered and the bill was forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote. On October 29, 2003, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. No amendments were offered and the bill was favorably reported, without amendment, to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Ground-

water Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1732, the Williamson County Water Recycling Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Melissa E. Zimmerman.
Sincerely,

ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON
(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 1732—Williamson County Water Recycling Act of 2003

Summary: H.R. 1732 would authorize federal participation in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater that would be carried out by the Lower Colorado River Authority in Williamson County, Texas. The bill would limit the federal share of those costs to 25 percent and would prohibit the use of the federal funds for operating or maintaining the project.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1732 would cost about \$8 million over the 2004–2008 period. H.R. 1732 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The participating communities in Texas might incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this act, but these costs would be voluntary.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1732 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated authorization level	2	2	2	2	0
Estimated outlays	2	2	2	2	0

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1732 will be enacted before the end of calendar year 2003 and that the necessary funds will be appropriated for each year. H.R. 1732 would limit the federal share of costs to 25 percent of the total cost to plan, design, and construct a wastewater reclamation project in

Williamson County, Texas. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$30 million and the maximum federal share would be \$8 million. CBO expects that it will take approximately four years to complete all phases of this project. For this estimate, CBO assumes that funds will be appropriated in equal installments over that period to complete the project.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 1732 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The participating communities in Texas might incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this act, but these costs would be voluntary.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Melissa E. Zimmerman. Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller. Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italic and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

RECLAMATION PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1992

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SEC. 2. DEFINITION AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

For purposes of this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TITLE XVI—RECLAMATION WASTEWATER AND GROUND WATER STUDIES
Sec. 1601. Short title.

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1636. *Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project.*

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TITLE XVI—RECLAMATION WASTEWATER AND GROUNDWATER STUDIES

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SEC. 1636. WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Lower Colorado River Authority, Texas, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in Williamson County, Texas.

(b) *COST SHARE.*—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

(c) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

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